

S. Christine Bartram

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Education and Qualifications

- 2013-2017 *University of Warwick*
Warwick Medical School, Division of Mental Health and Wellbeing
International Chancellor's Scholar (PhD student), infant mental health intervention (NBAS) implementation and evaluation at MRC Keneba, The Gambia. Supervisors: Professors Jane Barlow and Dieter Wolke
- 2012-2013 *University of Edinburgh*
MSc Children and Young People's Mental Health and Psychological Practice, awarded with Distinction. Dissertation: systematic review of the Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale when used as an intervention.
- May 2012 *Brazelton Centre in Great Britain*
Certified facilitator of the Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) System, an interactive context developed to encourage sensitive interaction between newborns and their caregivers; trained in the Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS)
- 2009-2012 *University of Cambridge, Newnham College*
Psychology, BA with Hons (2.1)
Dissertation (1st; Jessie Forbes prize): Psychometric evaluation of a new parent-report measure of theory of mind and executive functioning, regarding Autism Spectrum

Academic Scholarships and Prizes

- July 2012 *Jessie Forbes Prize*: Nominated and Awarded for First-Class Dissertation in Psychology
- 2009 – 2012 *Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholarship* (£4,000 per annum): Awarded for Academic Merit
Newnham College Bursary (£1,000 per annum): Awarded for Academic Merit
- 2013 – 2016 *Chancellor's International Scholarship*, Warwick Medical School (£30,000 per annum)

Recent Paid and Voluntary Work

- March – Present Delivering NBO and NBAS on a weekly, voluntary basis at Romsey Mill Children's Centre; offering newborn behavior sessions to parents with children under three months
- January 2013 – June 2013 Reception Volunteer – St. Paul's and St. George's Church Community Counselling Service. Answering the phone and welcoming clients to the service
Volunteer Creche Worker—St. Paul's and St. George's Church "Dazzle" Creche
Ensuring a warm, fun, and safe environment for one to two year olds
- May 2012 - June 2012 Volunteer Creche Worker — Romsey Mill Centre Cambridge Young Parents' Program Creche. Ensuring child-friendly environment, focus on warm, caring 1-to-1 interaction and enrichment activities with infants and toddlers of teen-aged parents
- October 2010 – June 2012 Volunteer Crèche Leader— Holy Trinity Church "Little Sheep" Community Program
Facilitating a fun, safe environment for infants of new local mothers.
- September 2011 – June 2012 Volunteer Class Leader— Holy Trinity Church Cambridge Children's Church
Facilitating lessons and events for the 3-5 and 6-8 year old classes.
- April 2011 Caller – Newnham College Annual Telephone Campaign (Holiday Work)
Placing calls to alumnae to establish or maintain rapport and raise funds for the college

Relevant Research and Experience

With Persons in Vulnerable Contexts or with Special Needs

- Nov. 2009 – June 2012 *Homeless Persons* – Throughout my time at Cambridge I co-lead a student ‘street outreach’ group, which provided food and support through active listening to approximately 30 members of the street-life community each week. Many of the homeless had problems with alcohol, drug and/or mental health problems and were sometimes volatile, but through patience and sensitivity, we developed many positive relationships over time. In my second year, I designed and conducted a qualitative research project on homelessness in Cambridge, via semi-structured interviews and participant observation. This research utilized my ability to establish rapport with people of various backgrounds.
- July 2012 *Women with Eating Disorders* - Accepted an invitation to spend a week at The Eden Unit, a clinic in Aberdeen specialising in eating disorders. Interviewed 10 of the women about their ideas and experiences of having children, to determine whether more formal research on this sensitive topic could be conducted in the unit. The resulting paper is likely to be published.
- May 2012 *Infants in Higher Risk Contexts* - I have a special interest in the care of infants with complex needs, and their caregivers, often with complex needs themselves. I trained last Spring in the NBO, and gave a presentation to over 70 attendees on the importance of early interventions and supporting families of pre-term infants. I volunteered in a crèche for infants and toddlers of teen-aged parents, and in another for infants and toddlers of caregivers accessing a Postnatal Depression Service. I have spent two days with newborns to 12-month olds in an orphanage in rural Tanzania, and subsequently developed guidelines for future volunteers working in that context, which is now required reading by the volunteer organization. My PhD project is an evaluation of an intervention used to support newborns and their caregivers and an evaluation of its effectiveness when used with families in The Gambia.
- May – June 2012 *Children of Young Parents* - I heard about a social inclusion centre in Cambridge in the last months of my time in Cambridge and was accepted to volunteer in the crèche of the Young Parents’ Programme (YPP). I then spent 3 hours each week there for several weeks, and really relished my time looking after the infants and toddlers while their mums took a parenting course.
- October – May 2012 *Children with Autism Spectrum Diagnoses* - Last year, I was selected as team member at the Centre for Family Research (University of Cambridge) for a study of theory of mind and executive functioning in families of children with and without an Autism Spectrum Disorder, which is aiming to develop and test interventions for children with an ASD. I was, along with another student, responsible for recruiting participants, and travelled to schools in Cambridge, London, and Wales for two sessions of data collection with each of the children. Working directly with more than 60 children (both typically developing and of varying degrees of ASD) required patience, persistence, creativity, and energy, and was extremely rewarding. I also spent a week as a volunteer assistant in a special needs class, including children with ASD, in peri-urban Tanzania.

In Promoting Awareness and Social Inclusion

- Oct. 2010 – April 2011 *Social Inclusion of Homeless Persons* - Interviewed students about their perspective on student engagement with the homeless community in Cambridge and produced a podcast for the website of the leading student newspaper to accompany an article published in the paper and in a Newnham college magazine about what students can do to make a difference. I also interviewed on a local radio show in 2010 on the issue.
- February – April 2010 *Cancer Research Promotion* - Organized a fundraising and awareness campaign through the St. Baldrick’s foundation for cancer research in April 2010, by committing to have my head shaved. To gain support and sponsorship, I wrote letters to motivate friends and family, produced two music videos, and utilized social networking. I sought support from a local barber who did the shave free of charge. Over £3,000 was raised.

Other Activities and Achievements

Foreign Language: Good level of written and spoken Spanish; conversational Kiswahili

Writing : Published poet by age 13 in a state-wide anthology; self-published poetry manuscript in 2011

Sport: Dance (West Coast Swing; social Salsa; beginner’s Street Dance)